

Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Manual

- Policies and Procedures
- Application for Designation
- Initial and Annual Recertification

Department of Trade and Development
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WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (CHDO)?

A CHDO (pronounced cho'doe) is a private nonprofit, community-based service organization that has significant capacity, and whose **primary** purpose is, to develop affordable housing for the community it serves. Certified CHDOs receive special designation from Department of Trade and Development (DTD). The HOME Program definition of a CHDO is found at 24 CFR Part 92.2.

WHAT SPECIAL BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE TO CHDOs?

HOME regulations require that DCD set aside 15 percent of its annual HOME allocation exclusively for qualified, eligible CHDO projects. If an organization becomes a certified CHDO, it is eligible to take advantage of the HOME funds set-aside just for CHDOs, as well as financial support for a portion of its operating expenses associated with CHDO projects.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR CHDO CERTIFICATION

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has established standard criteria for organizations to be eligible to become a certified CHDO:

- 1. **Organized Under State/Local Law**. A nonprofit organization must show evidence in its Articles of Incorporation that it is organized under state or local law.
- 2. **Nonprofit Status**. The organization must be conditionally designated or have a tax exemption ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. A 501(c) certificate from the IRS must evidence the ruling.
- 3. **Purpose of Organization**. Among its primary purposes, the organization must have the provision of decent housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income people. This must be evidenced by a statement in the organization's Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws.
- 4. **Board Structure**. The board of directors must be organized to contain no more than one-third representation from the public sector and a minimum of one-third representation from the low-income community.
- 5. **No For-Profit Control**. The organization may not be controlled by, nor receive directions from, individuals or entities seeking profit from or that will derive direct benefit from the organization.

- 6. **No Individual Benefit**. No part of a CHDO's net earnings (profits) may benefit any members, founders, contributors, or individuals. This requirement must also be evidenced in the organization's Articles of Incorporation.
- 7. Clearly Defined Service Area. The organization must have a clearly defined geographic service area outlined in its Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws. CHDOs may serve individual neighborhoods or large areas. However, while the organization may include an entire community in their service area (such as a city, town, village, county, or multi-county area), they may not include the entire state.
- 8. Low-Income Advisory Process. A formal process must be developed and implemented for low-income program beneficiaries and low-income residents of the organization's service area to advise the organization in all of its decisions regarding the design, location, development and management of affordable housing projects.
- 9. Capacity/Experience. To qualify as a CHDO, a nonprofit must have paid staff whose experience qualifies them to undertake CHDO set-aside activities. Capacity cannot be demonstrated by use of a consultant, except in the first year that a CHDO becomes certified. The key staff and board of directors must also have significant experience and capacity to carry out CHDO-eligible, HOME-assisted projects in the community where it intends to develop affordable housing.).
- 10. Community Service. A minimum of one year of relative experience serving the community(ies) where it intends to develop affordable housing must be demonstrated.
- 11. **Financial Accountability Standards**. The organization must meet and adhere to the financial accountability standards as outlined in 24 CFR 84.21, "Standards for Financial Management Systems."

DCD REQUIREMENTS FOR CHDO CERTIFICATION

In addition to the regulatory requirements, DCD has established additional criteria for CHDO designation. To be eligible for CHDO designation, an organization must also:

- 1. Maintain a record of good standing with the Ohio Secretary of State's office.
- 2. Maintain a staffed, physical office location in the proposed service area that is open for business and accessible by potential program applicants during generally-accepted customary business hours.
- 3. Have established a minimum five-year strategic business plan, which must include CHDO-related production and community involvement goals.
- 4. Maintain a history of no significant compliance findings on its DCD-funded projects.

Please note that the criteria noted above is not intended to be all-inclusive and DCD may require additional information prior to making a determination for CHDO designation. Meeting the above requirements does not guarantee that the organization will be granted CHDO designation. DCD reserves the right to deny or revoke CHDO designation based upon its evaluation of the nonprofit organization's performance. Designated CHDOs will be evaluated periodically for production and other benchmarks as established by DCD.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CHDO CERTIFICATION

The HOME Program establishes requirements for the organizational structure of a CHDO to ensure that the governing body of the organization is **controlled by the community it serves**. These requirements are designed to ensure that the CHDO is capable of decisions and actions that address the community's needs without undue influence from external agendas.

There are four specific requirements related to the organization's board, which must be evidenced in the organization's Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws. These are:

- 1. **Low Income Representation.** At least one-third of the organization's board must be representatives of the low-income community served by the CHDO. There are three ways a board member can meet the definition of a low-income representative:
 - The person lives in a low-income neighborhood where 51% or more of the residents are low-income. This person need not necessarily be low-income.

or

 The person is a low-income (below 80% area median income) resident of the community.

or

 The person was elected by a low-income neighborhood organization to serve on the CHDO board. The organization must be composed primarily of residents of the low-income neighborhood and its primary purpose must be to serve the interests of the neighborhood residents. Such organizations might include block groups, neighborhood associations, and neighborhood watch groups.

The CHDO is required to certify the status of low-income representatives.

2. Public Sector Limitations. No more than one-third of the organization's board may be representatives of the public sector, including elected public officials, appointees of a public official or any employees of DCD or the Commonwealth of Ohio. If a person qualifies as a low-income representative and a public sector representative, their role as a public sector representative supersedes their residency or income status. Therefore, this person counts toward the one-third public sector limitation.

- 3. Low Income Advisory Process. Input from the low-income community is not met solely by having low-income representation on the board. The CHDO must provide a formal process for low-income program beneficiaries to advise the CHDO on design, location of sites, development and management of affordable housing. The process must be described in writing in the Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws. Each project undertaken by the CHDO should allow potential program beneficiaries to be involved and provide input on the entire project from project concept, design and site location to property management. One way to accomplish this requirement is to develop a project advisory committee for each project or community where a HOME assisted project will be developed. Proof of input from the low-income community will be required at the CHDO's annual recertification.
- 4. **For-Profit Limitations**. If a CHDO is sponsored by a for-profit entity, the for-profit may not appoint more than one-third of the board. The board members appointed by the for-profit may not appoint the remaining two-third of the board members.

EXPERIENCE, CAPACITY AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CHDO CERTIFICATION

To be certified as a CHDO, the HOME Program requires organizations to demonstrate sufficient experience, capacity, and financial accountability.

EXPERIENCE & CAPACITY

CHDOs must demonstrate a history of serving the community where the housing to be assisted with HOME funds will be located. HUD requires that organizations show a history of serving the community by providing:

- A statement that documents at least one year of experience serving the community.
- For newly created organizations, provide a statement that the parent organization (if applicable) has at least one year experience serving the community.

As of 2013, all CHDOs must have at least one paid staff member with relevant professional experience. Except in the first year of CHDO operation, this individual must be a paid employee, not a consultant.

CHDOs must demonstrate that their key staff and board of directors have the **relevant** experience necessary to perform the HOME-assisted activities they plan to undertake. CHDOs must provide resumes and/or statements of key staff members that describe their experience of successfully completed projects similar to those proposed.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

CHDOs must have financial accountability standards that conform to the requirements detailed in 24 CFR 82.21, "Standards for Financial Management Systems." This can be evidenced by:

- A notarized statement by the president or chief financial officer of the organization.
- Certification from a certified public accountant.
- Audit completed by CPA.

CHDO SERVICE AREA

While DCD does not limit the number of counties is a CHDO's service area, the very definition of a CHDO is that it be community-based. Therefore, an organization proposing a large or regional service area must demonstrate that it is taking the appropriate steps to achieve the community-based component. Some of the ways this can be achieved is by having an active community (non-public) representative from each of the counties on the CHDO's board of directors; establishing local advisory councils to advise the CHDO board on topics relative to the organization's activities; hosting "town hall" meetings in the proposed project areas, etc. DCD will consider other methods suggested by the CHDO. CHDOs will be required to provide updates on how it is ensuring that it is active and visible in the communities included in its service area.

CHDO CERTIFICATION

The City of Cincinnati certifies CHDOs on an annual basis. Certification is valid for one year, after which time CHDOs must be recertified. CHDOs will also be recertified each time the City commits HOME funds to a CHDO project. To be considered for initial or recertification CHDO applicants must submit, or verify, at minimum, the following information:

- An application for initial or recertification on a form provided by the City of Cincinnati.
- Organization Charter or Articles of Incorporation
- Certificate of Good Standing from the Ohio Secretary of State. New organizations may submit a Certificate of Existence.
- IRS certificate or letter showing organizational designation.
- Organizational by-laws or relevant resolutions

- Notarized statement by the president or CFO, a certification from a CPA, or a HUD approved audit summary showing CHDO conformance to Attachment F of OMB Circular A-110.
- Resumes of paid CHDO staff and resumes or narratives describing experience of other key staff and board members with relevant experience.
- Statement signed by the Board President that details experience in serving each community for which Certification is sought.
- Copy of current fiscal year operating budget categorized by program.
- Description of current and planned affordable housing activities.
- A listing of the CHDO board of directors certified by the board president which shows each board member's name, county of residence, employer, whether the member's household earns less than 80% of the Area Median Income, whether the member is a resident of a low-income neighborhood, whether the member is an elected neighborhood representative, whether the member is a public official or employee or works in the private sector, and when the member's term of service to the CHDO board concludes. This information is to be provided on the form provided by the City of Cincinnati.
- Certifications of low-income board representatives on the appropriate form provided by the City of Cincinnati.
- Payroll records documenting the employment of at least one full-time, paid CHDO employee. If this is the first year the CHDO has existed, payroll is not required.
- Other documentation as required to complete the City's CHDO application.

CHDO SET-ASIDE

The HOME requirements at 24 CFR Part 92.300 require DCD to set aside at least 15 percent of its annual HOME allocation for projects owned, developed or sponsored by CHDOs.

A certified CHDO must serve as the owner, developer or sponsor of a HOME-eligible project when using funds from the 15 percent CHDO set-aside. A CHDO may serve in one of these roles or it may undertake projects in which it combines roles, such as being both an owner and developer.

CHDO AS AN OWNER

A CHDO is considered an owner of a property when it holds valid legal title or has a long-term leasehold interest (99-year minimum). The CHDO may be an owner with one or more individuals, corporations, partnerships, or other legal entities.

If CHDO-owned property is to be redeveloped, the CHDO may be sole owner and have another entity act as developer or it can also be the owner and developer of its own project. The CHDO may own a property in partnership with either a majority or minority interest. However, the CHDO, in partnership with a wholly owned for profit or nonprofit subsidiary, must be the managing general partner with effective control (in decision making authority) of the project. The CHDO must own the rental housing during development and for a period at least equal to the period of affordability for the project.

CHDOs can also acquire existing housing that already meets HUD property standards, provided it continues to own the housing throughout the affordability period.

CHDO AS DEVELOPER

A CHDO is considered a developer of **rental housing** when it is the owner (in fee simple absolute or long-term ground lease) and project developer. The CHDO must be in sole charge of all aspects of the development process, including obtaining zoning, securing non-HOME financing, selecting project architects, engineers, and contractors, overseeing progress of the work, and determining cost reasonableness. The CHDO must own the HOME-assisted housing during development and throughout the period of affordability. (Note that pre-2013 federal HOME rules allowed a CHDO to act as a developer without owning the property. This is no longer the case).

A CHDO is considered a developer of **housing for homeownership** when the CHDO is the owner (in fee simple absolute) and developer of new housing that will be constructed or existing substandard housing that is owned or will be acquired by the CHDO and rehabilitated for sale to low-income families. To be the "developer," the CHDO must arrange financing for the project and be in sole charge of construction. As part of its set-aside funds, the CHDO can provide direct downpayment assistance to a buyer of the housing it has developed with HOME funds in an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the amount of HOME development funds. In this role, the CHDO is not a subrecipient.

CHDO AS A SPONSOR

For HOME-assisted rental housing, A CHDO sponsors rental housing in one of two ways:

1. When the property is owned or developed by one of the following:

- A wholly-owned subsidiary of the CHDO
- A limited partnership in which the CHDO or its wholly-owned subsidiary is the sole general partner
- A limited liability company in which the CHDO or its wholly owned subsidiary is the sole managing member
- 2. If the limited partnership or limited liability company agreement permits the CHDO to be removed as sole general partner or sole managing member, respectively, the agreement must require that the removal be "for cause" and that the CHDO must be replaced by another CHDO. In addition, HOME funds must be provided to the entity that owns the project. When the CHDO owns and develops the housing and agrees to convey the housing to a private nonprofit organization at a predetermined time after completion of the project development. Such arrangements typically occur when a CHDO has development expertise and the nonprofit organization has the capacity to own and operate the housing. The CHDO is required to own the property before the development phase of the project and is required to select the nonprofit organization before entering into an agreement with the PJ that commits HOME funds to the project. The nonprofit organization assumes the CHDO's HOME obligation (including any repayment of loans) for the project. If the property is not transferred to the nonprofit organization, the CHDO sponsor remains liable for the HOME assistance and the HOME project.

Note that as of August 15, 2013, a CHDO can no longer serve as a "sponsor" of homebuyer housing.

CHDOs as Developer or Sponsor

The CHDO developer and sponsor roles are similar. In both roles, the CHDO must own the property during development, must carry out the principal project development activities such as acquisition, financing, construction management, and assembling a capable development team to bring a project from conception to completion. However, as a developer, the CHDO must own the property throughout the affordability period whereas as a property sponsor, the CHDO may transfer the property to a non-profit after project completion or may own and develop the property through its own subsidiary, partnership, or company.

ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE USES OF HOME CHDO SET-ASIDE FUNDS

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES - OWNERS, SPONSORS, DEVELOPERS

Using the 15% set-aside, a CHDO acting as an owner, sponsor, or developer may undertake any of the following activities:

- acquisition and/or rehabilitation of rental property;
- new construction of rental housing;
- acquisition, rehabilitation and resale of existing, vacant homebuyer property;
- new construction of homebuyer property;
- direct financial assistance to purchasers of HOME-assisted housing developed by a CHDO with HOME CHDO set-aside funds.

Please note that to be considered a CHDO-eligible project, CHDO set-aside HOME funds must be used during the construction or rehabilitation of the project.

INELIGIBLE CHDO ACTIVITIES

Using the 15% set-aside, a CHDO may not undertake any of the following activities:

- Rehabilitation of existing homeowners' properties;
- Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA); or
- Down payment and/or closing cost assistance to purchasers of housing not developed with HOME CHDO set-aside funds.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES - SUBRECIPIENTS

CHDOs may also act as subrecipients with non-set-aside funds by undertaking all other HOME-eligible activities such as:

- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA);
- Owner-occupied rehabilitation of single-family dwellings; and
- Down payment or closing cost assistance in the acquisition of single-family units.

OPERATING EXPENSES

From time to time, funds may be available to provide general operating assistance to CHDOs receiving or which will receive CHDO set-aside funds for activities. When funds are available, certified CHDOs that are administering an eligible project funded from the CHDO set-aside may be eligible to receive funds to be used for operating expenses. DCD has the option of allocating up to 5 percent of its HOME allocation to provide funds for CHDO operating expenses. This allocation does not count toward the required 15 percent CHDO set-aside funds that are to be used by CHDOs for projects.

The amount of operating funds awarded will be based on the following factors:

- 1. The total amount of HOME funds DCD has available to allocate for reimbursable CHDO operating expenses;
- 2. The anticipated completion date of your current CHDO set-aside project(s); and
- 3. The CHDO's past performance as a CHDO developer.

Operating funds will be provided on a fiscal year basis provided funds are available and the CHDO has demonstrated acceptable performance.

Although the disbursement of CHDO operating funds is not tied directly to the draw down of the CHDO project funds, DCD reserves the right to delay disbursement of operating funds if it is evident that the CHDO project is experiencing excessive delays.

DCD reserves the right to reduce the amount of, or not award, operating funds based upon its evaluation of the CHDO's production and overall performance.

Eligible operating expenses for which CHDOs may use operating funds include:

- Salaries, wages, benefits, and other employee compensation
- Employee education, training and travel
- Rent and utilities
- Communication costs
- Taxes and insurance
- Equipment, materials and supplies

Because the purpose of providing CHDO operating support is to nurture successful CHDOs and ensure their continued growth and success, DCD will periodically evaluate the performance of any CHDO wishing to receive CHDO operating funds.

CHDOs who have not drawn any HOME project funds within 24 months of first receiving operating support are ineligible to receive additional operating support until such time when project funds are expended (in accordance with §92.300(e) and CPD-97-11).

Progress Reporting

To document its performance and be eligible to receive operating funds, the CHDO must provide three quarterly progress reports coinciding with the quarterly draw requests for CHDO operating funds (the last progress report will be contained in the annual recertification). At its discretion, DCD may reduce the requirement to semi-annual progress reports (one mid-year report and the annual recertification).

The CHDO must use the quarterly progress report form provided by DCD and describe the following:

- The status of the currently funded CHDO project.
 - ➢ If the CHDO is not currently administering an eligible project, it must have a CHDO-eligible project in pre-development that will be submitted to DCD for funding within 12 months and be able to describe the intended project design and location. If the CHDO does not have an eligible project funded by DCD within that timeframe, operating support will not be awarded until an eligible project is funded.
- A detailed narrative of the specific uses of CHDO operating funds, as well as a
 description of what the receipt of operating funds has enabled the CHDO to
 undertake or accomplish that it would otherwise have been unable to achieve.
- An update on the CHDO's progress in meeting the specific goals outlined in its 2-year strategic plan, as submitted in the annual recertification.
- The community involvement and participation of the CHDO, particularly with the intended beneficiaries of its projects, as well as partner organizations and other entities involved in serving low- and moderate-income households.
- The activities and involvement of the board of directors in the planning and development of the CHDO's projects.
- The ongoing development of its staff and board of directors; i.e., trainings completed, certifications achieved, recognition awarded, etc.

Additional Requirements

In order to be eligible to receive operating support, CHDOs must also meet the following requirements:

- Demonstrate incrementally increasing production goals and/or expansion of its services to the community.
- Provide a copy of its annual operating budget.

 Document that it has resolved any compliance findings on its DCD-funded projects in a timely manner. If a compliance finding is noted, it must be resolved before the next CHDO operating draw. The finding and resolution must be detailed in the quarterly progress report.

Process for Drawing CHDO Operating Funds

CHDO operating funds are awarded on a fiscal year basis. Draw requests for eligible expenditures may be made on a monthly reimbursement basis (CHDO must first expend the funds and then request reimbursement from DCD). For example, the CHDO may submit a draw request in October for eligible expenses incurred and paid in calendar quarter July – September.

CHDO PROCEEDS

In an effort to support the organizational strength and financial stability of CHDOs, DCD may, upon request, allow a CHDO to retain proceeds generated from its CHDO set-aside projects. To be eligible to request to retain CHDO proceeds, a CHDO must meet all of the following criteria:

- 1. Demonstrate a minimum of three (3) years of experience administering a revolving loan fund in a size and amount similar to the anticipated revolving loan pool to be derived from the use of CHDO proceeds. In its request, the CHDO must describe or provide the following:
 - a. type of existing revolving loan fund it administers (housing, economic development, etc.);
 - b. how many loans it is servicing;
 - c. year-to-date balance sheet for the revolving loan fund (must be current within 30 days of submission):
 - d. length of time the revolving loan fund has been in place;
 - e. source (or seed money) that established the fund and any associated restrictions;
 - f. loan servicing mechanism the CHDO utilizes (loan tracking software, manual ledger books, etc.); and
 - g. copy of the CHDO's policies and procedures for loss mitigation and loan delinquencies.
- 2. Employ an on-staff loan servicing department and/or finance officer.
- 3. Complete a successful HOME monitoring visit with no outstanding concerns or findings. Any other DCD-financed projects must also be successfully monitored.
- 4. Complete an audit compliant with OMB Circular A-133 and the Single Audit Act of 1984.

First-time recipients of CHDO HOME funds are not eligible to retain CHDO proceeds. In addition, meeting the above-outlined criteria does not guarantee that the CHDO will be allowed to retain CHDO proceeds. DCD reserves the right, at its discretion, to make this determination.

The final rule of the HOME regulations created the concept of CHDO proceeds. Examples of CHDO proceeds are funds resulting from:

- the permanent financing of a CHDO project used to pay off a CHDO-financed construction loan;
- the sale of CHDO-developed homeownership housing; or
- the principal and interest payments from a loan to a buyer of CHDO-developed homeownership housing.

Proceeds generated from the investment of CHDO set-aside funds in a HOME-eligible project and that are retained by the CHDO **are not** subject to the requirements of the HOME regulations, **except in the event of repayment or recapture.** Therefore, CHDO proceeds have no federal identity and are not subject to lead-based paint requirements, the Davis-Bacon Act, Uniform Relocation Act, etc. However, since CHDO proceeds are derived from HOME funds, any activities funded with CHDO proceeds **may not** be counted as match for other DCD-financed projects.

As outlined in CPD Notice 97-09, CHDO proceeds must always be used for HOME-eligible or other affordable housing activities to benefit low-income families. DCD has further defined this as affordable housing initiatives for households at or below 80 percent of the area median income, including:

- predevelopment costs
- housing counseling
- emergency repairs
- energy (weatherization) repairs
- construction and/or permanent financing
- indoor plumbing
- rental assistance
- rental housing project reserves
- rental housing operating subsidies
- repair, accessibility and adaptability modifications to owner-occupied housing
- downpayment and closing costs assistance in the acquisition of existing housing
- supportive services (as defined by Continuum of Care).

DCD will consider additional uses of CHDO proceeds on a case-by-case basis.

CHDOs allowed to retain CHDO proceeds must report annually to DCD how these proceeds were utilized. DCD reserves the right to disallow a CHDO to continue to retain CHDO proceeds, if deemed necessary. Unless previously approved by DCD, CHDOs that are allowed to retain proceeds may <u>not</u> also keep program income and are required to adhere to all other DCD requirements including:

- underwriting/repayment criteria;
- use of DCD-provided loan documents;
- universal design and minimum design standards;
- cost containment:
- maximum purchase price; and
- maximum subsidy.

DCD may, on a case-by-case basis, consider allowing a CHDO that retains proceeds to waive some or all of the additional DCD requirements noted above, but only after careful review of the CHDO's organizational capacity and experience.

Program income never loses its federal identity and is <u>always</u> subject to HOME regulations. HOME funds that are a result of **repayment** or **recapture** are <u>always</u> considered program income, even if originally funded from the CHDO set-aside. **Repayment** occurs when a HOME-funded project, including CHDO set-aside funds, is terminated before completion. **Recapture** occurs when a HOME-funded project, including CHDO set-aside funds, does not continue to be the principal residence of the HOME-assisted home buyer for the full affordability period. No administrative fees may be retained on repaid or recaptured funds.

If a CHDO is acting as a subrecipient, the funds generated from HOME-assisted activities are program income and are subject to HOME program income requirements.

In regard to administrative fees and CHDO proceeds, during the initial realization of CHDO proceeds, a CHDO may retain 10 percent for administrative costs. Thereafter, each time CHDO proceeds are realized, 20 percent may be retained for administrative purposes.

At the request of the CHDO, DCD may permit the CHDO to exceed the 20 percent administrative limit on a one-time basis, if it can be demonstrated that the CHDO's capacity to serve its community would be strengthened.

CHDO PROCUREMENT

As noted in HUD CPD Notice 97-11, CHDO organizations are not subject to the requirements of 24 CFR, Part 84 in regard to the procurement of goods and services. This exemption is only applicable to procurement associated with CHDO-eligible projects; CHDOs must still follow appropriate procurement procedures compliant with Part 84 for its non-CHDO projects. DCD may request a copy of the CHDO's procurement policy for any non-CHDO project funding proposals.

HOW TO APPLY FOR CHDO CERTIFICATION

 Complete the CHDO Certification Application, including all requested attachments, documentation and forms. 2. The application may be mailed or hand delivered to the address below. Fax and email copies are not acceptable:

Department of Trade and Development Attention: Adam Sickmiller Two Centennial Plaza, Ste. 700 805 Central Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

3. The applicant has 30 days to respond to any request for additional information. If information is not received within 30 days, the CHDO certification application will be denied.



CHDO Certification Application

Organization Name:	Tax ID Number:				
Mailing Address (include physical address if different from mailing address):					
Contact Name / Title:	Organization President/CEO/Executive Director Name & Title:				
Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address:	President/CEO/Executive Director Phone Number & E-mail Address:				
Board President Name:	Board President Phone Number and E-mail Address:				
PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CHDO-ELIGIB TO UNDERTAKE AS A CHDO:	LE ACTIVITIES YOUR ORGANIZATION PLANS				
LIST EACH GEOGRAPHIC AREA TO BE	CONSIDER FOR CHDO CERTIFICATION:				
Locality	Locality				
1.	4.				
2.	5.				
3.	6.				
I certify that the submission of this application Board of Directors.	ation has been approved by a two-thirds vote of the				
Board President Signature	Date				



CHDO Certification Application Attachments Checklist

Please complete the applicant portion of this checklist. Include the requested information in the Attachments indicated and check-off the item in the checklist. Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Charters, Memorandums of Understanding, Contracts, Certifications and Resolutions must be signed and dated by the Board President or other authorized signor. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

LEC	GAL STATUS	DCD Use Only
A	The nonprofit organization is organized under State or local laws. As Attachment A-1, please provide a signed and dated copy of: A Charter, -OR Articles of Incorporation As Attachment A-2, please provide a Certificate of Good Standing from the Ohio Secretary of State's office. If the organization is newly created and has been in existence less than one year, a Certificate of Existence will suffice. Date of incorporation:	Requirement Met?
В	No part of its net earnings inure to the benefit of any member, founder, contributor, or individual. As Attachment B , please provide and highlight the appropriate area in the following document: A Charter, -OR Articles of Incorporation	Requirement Met?
С	Has either a tax exemption ruling or conditional designation from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. As Attachment C , please provide complete copy of: A 501(c) Certificate from the IRS, -OR-	Requirement Met?
	Letter of conditional designation from the IRS	

LEC	GAL STATUS	DCD Use Only
D	Has among its purposes the provision of decent housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income people. As Attachment D, please provide and highlight the appropriate area in one of the following document: Charter Articles of Incorporation By-laws Resolutions	Requirement Met?
E	Conforms to the financial accountability standards of Attachment F of OMB Circular A-110, "Standards for Financial Management Systems. As Attachment E , please provide a copy of one of the following:	Requirement Met?
	A notarized statement by the president or chief financial officer of the organization;	
	A certification from a Certified Public Accountant; OR- A HUD approved audit summary.	
CAI	PACITY/EXPERIENCE	
F	Has a demonstrated capacity for carrying out activities assisted with HOME funds. As Attachment F , please provide the following:	Requirement Met?
	Resumes and/or narrative that describes the experience of key staff and board members who have successfully completed HOME-funded projects similar to those to be undertaken as a CHDO.	

CAI	PACITY/EXPERIENCE	DCD Use Only		
Ð	Has a history of serving the community(ies) where housing to be assisted with HOME funds will be produced. As Attachment G , provide one of the following:	Requirement Met?		
	Statement signed by the Board President that details at least one year of experience in serving each community which for which Certification is sought, -OR-			
	For newly created organizations formed by local churches, service or community organizations, a statement signed by the Board President that details that its parent organization has at least one year of experience in serving each community for which Certification is sought.			
OR	GANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE			
Н	Maintains at least one-third of its governing board's membership for residents of low-income neighborhoods, other low-income community residents, or elected representatives of low-income neighborhood organizations. As Attachment H, highlight the relevant text in one of the following: By-Laws Charter Articles of Incorporation	Requirement Met?		
ı	Provides a formal process for low-income, program beneficiaries to advise the organization in all of its decisions regarding the design, siting, development, and management of all HOME-assisted affordable housing projects.	Requirement Met?		
	As Attachment I , highlight the relevant text in one of following:			
	The organization's By-laws, -OR- Resolutions, AND A written statement of operating procedures			
	approved and signed by the governing body.			

OR	GANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	DCD Use Only
J	A CHDO may be chartered by a State or local government, however, the State or local government may not appoint: (1) more than one-third of the membership of the organization's governing body; (2) the board members appointed by the State or local government may not, in turn, appoint the remaining two-thirds of the board members; and (3) no more than one-third of the governing board members are public officials.	Requirement Met?
	As Attachment J , highlight relevant text in one of the following which describes the process for selecting the remaining two-thirds of the board members:	
	By-Laws Charter Articles of Incorporation	
K	Is the CHDO sponsored or created by a for-profit entity?	Requirement Met?
	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
	If yes, the for-profit entity may not appoint more than one- third of the membership of the CHDO's board and the board members appointed by the for-profit entity may not, in turn, appoint the remaining two-thirds of the board members.	
	As Attachment K , highlight the relevant text in one of the following which describes the process for selecting the remaining two-thirds of the board members:	
	By-Laws	
	Charter Articles of Incorporation	
RFI	ATIONSHIP WITH FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES	
L	Does the CHDO have a relationship with a for-profit entity?	Requirement Met?
	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
	If yes, the CHDO can not be controlled by, nor receive	
	directions from, individuals or entities seeking profit from the organization. As Attachment L , highlight the relevant text and provide one of the following:	
	The organization's By-laws, -OR- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).	

_ATIONSHIP WITH FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES	DCD Use Only
Is the CHDO sponsored or created by a for-profit entity?	Requirement Met?
☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, A CHDO may be sponsored or created by a for-profit entity, however:	
(1) The for-profit entity's primary purpose does not include the development or management of housing. As Attachment M-1 provide:	
The for-profit organization's By-Laws, AND;	
(2) The CHDO is free to contract for goods and services from vendor(s) of its own choosing. As Attachment M -	
By-Laws Charter	
Articles of Incorporation	
USING AS PRIMARY PURPOSE	DCD Use Only
Certification is available only to organizations whose primary purpose is to provide and develop affordable housing. Please provide as Attachment N , a copy of the following:	Requirement Met?
Copy of current fiscal year's full operating budget categorized by program, AND Description of current and planned affordable housing activities.	

во	ARD CERTIFICATION	DCD Use Only				
0	The Board and its low-income representatives must certify that it meets the low-income CHDO requirements. As Attachment O , attach	Requirement Met?				
	Certification of Low Income Representation (form attached), AND					
	Certification of Board Status					
Р	Do board members have professional skills directly relevant to housing development (e.g. real estate, legal, architecture, finance, management)? If so, as Attachment P , attach written documentation of each	☐ Yes ☐ No				
	board member's profession and relative experience.					
Q	All CHDOs, except those operating for their initial year, must have full time, experienced, paid employees. Please attach:	☐ Yes ☐ No				
	Three months of payroll records for at least one (1) CHDO employee.					
Foi	DCD Use Only:					
	Approved Disapproved					
CHDO Coordinator Signature:						
Dat	e:					



CHDO Capacity Assessment (Attach to CHDO Certification Application)

CHDO Applicant: _			
Completed by:		Date:	
	(name and title)		

Please provide **detailed** answers to the following questions regarding your organization's capacity to act in the role of a CHDO developer and to administer CHDO set-aside funds. Your responses to this assessment will be used in conjunction with the CHDO Certification Application to evaluate your organization's readiness and capacity to be a CHDO and will assist in DCD's determination to award the CHDO designation.

Organizational Status

- 1. Can your organization provide a Certificate of Good Standing from the Ohio Secretary of State's Office? If yes, please attach.
- 2. Has your organization produced a strategic plan that specifies an action plan for housing development? If yes, please attach.

Board of Directors

- 3. Has there been stability and continuity in the members of your organization's board of directors over the last several years? Please explain.
- 4. Does the board have a committee structure or other means of overseeing planning and development? Please describe.
- 5. Describe the professional skills of the board members that are directly relevant to housing development (e.g., real estate, legal, architecture, finance, management).

6. Describe the relationship between the board of directors and the staff of your organization. Do the board and staff have shared goals?

Identity of Interest

7. Are there any identity of interest issues between your organization and any of the contractors, consultants or other professional service providers that are used for development activities that might constitute a real or perceived conflict of interest? Please explain.

Relationship/Service to the Community

- 8. Are the current housing development plans of your organization well grounded in an understanding of current housing conditions, housing needs and market demand? Has your organization done any analyses of the local housing market and the housing needs of low-income households? Please describe.
- 9. How strong are the current reputation of your organization and the relationships with the communities it serves?
- 10. To what extent does NIMBY (not in my back yard) opposition exist to low income housing in your organization's service area? What mechanisms are utilized to negotiate with the community and potential opponents?
- 11. Does your organization have strong, favorable relationships with the local governments in your service area? How strongly do local governments and elected officials support your housing activities?

Financial Management

12. Does your organization undertake annual budgeting of operational and project/program activities? Are budget versus actual income and expenses tracked and reported? Please explain.

13.	Does your organization maintain controls over expenditures? How regularly are cash flow problems experienced?
14.	Describe the internal controls your organization has in place to ensure separation of duties and safeguarding of assets.
15.	Describe your organization's conflict of interest policy governing employees and board members regarding project development activities, particularly in procurement of contract services and the provision of housing assistance.
16.	Explain the types and amounts of insurance carried by your organization (as applicable) for each of the following: liability, fidelity bond, workers compensation and property hazard.
17.	Does your organization have a diversified and stable funding base for its operations? Do you have an established fundraising program for capital and operational needs? Please describe.
18.	Does your organization have funds set aside for meeting the capital advance and/or predevelopment needs of project development? Please describe the source and amount of funds available for capital advancement.
19.	Are sufficient liquid assets available to cover your organization's current expenses? What portion of your organization's assets is liquid?

20. Describe the strength of your organization's relationships with other housing funders and lenders.

Development Capacity

- 21. Describe the skills of key housing staff in the following areas:
 - Market analysis
 - Legal/financial aspects of housing development
 - Management of real estate development
 - Oversight of design and construction management
 - Marketing and client intake
 - Property management (if proposing rental activities)

22. Does your organization utilize the services of qualified consultants or other partners in your housing developments? Describe the training these third parties provide to your staff and board members to build their capacity.

Certification of Low-Income Representation

Board Member Name:	
I certify that I am a current member in good standing of the	governing board for
(name of the CHDO organization)	
and that I represent the interests of low-income families service area. I have checked below the manner in which income representative:	
I qualify as a low-income resident under the HOME I annual income of my household of people is county area median income in t (name of county)	at or below 80% of the
I live in a low-income area (where 51% or more of the tract have incomes at or below 80% of the median held), which is part of the CHDO's targeted services. The Census tract data must accept the company of the census tract data must accept the census tract number.	ousehold income, as defined by area. My census tract is
I am an elected representative of	,
(name of low-	income neighborhood organization)
located within(name of county)	,
which is part of the CHDO's targeted service area. Troster that demonstrates the election of the mem	
If the applicant is representing a low-income neighborhood copy of the signed resolution from the neighborhood organitheir representative on the CHDO's board of directors.	• •
By signing and dating this statement, I hereby certify that I characteristic checked above.	meet the low-income representation
Board Member Signature	 Date
Board President Signature	 Date

[CHDO Name] Board of Directors

SELECT ONLY ONE (Appropriate Documentation Must Be Provided)

	Current Board Member Name	County of Residence	Employer (If unemployed, indicate reason such as student, retired, disabled, etc.)	Low- Income Household (below 80% AMI)	Resident of a Low-Income Neighborhood (provide US Census tract data)	Elected Representative of a Low- Income Neighborhood Organization	Public Official or Employee	Private Sector	Term Expiration Date
1.									
2.									
3.									
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11.									
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13.									
14.									
15.									

I certify that this listing of current, participating board members is accurate.			
Board President Signature	Date		

[CHDO Name] Board of Directors			SELECT ONLY ONE (Appropriate Documentation Must Be Provided)					Page 2	
	Current Board Member Name	County of Residence	Employer (If unemployed, indicate reason such as student, retired, disabled, etc.)	Low- Income Household (below 80% AMI)	Resident of a Low-Income Neighborhood (provide US Census tract data)	Elected Representative of a Low- Income Neighborhood Organization	Public Official or Employee	Private Sector	Term Expiration Date
16.									
17.									
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29.									
30.									
	I certify that this		t, participating board	l members is ac	ccurate.				



CHDO ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION

CHDO ORGANIZATION NAME: $_$	
SUBMITTED BY:	
DATE SUBMITTED:	
	 -

- * Items indicated with an "asterisk" symbol are reminders or helpful tips.
- Provide a listing of the CHDO board of directors, including the board member's name, place of employment, and which sector he/she represents (i.e., public, private or low-income). Keep in mind the requirement that no more than one-third of the board may be comprised of public representatives and at least one-third of the board must be low-income representatives. Using the form provided, please include the listing of the board of directors as Attachment A.
 - Per a regulatory clarification from HUD, a local government employee, school board employee, etc. <u>does not</u> have to be counted as a public sector representative if he/she would otherwise qualify as a low-income representative.
 - * However, a board member who is employed by any branch or agency of state government is automatically considered a public representative, regardless of his/her income level. Other types of public representatives include elected officials and board members appointed by a public official.
- 2. For the low-income representatives on the board, provide supporting documentation of their eligibility to be a low-income representative. There are three ways a board member can be classified as a low-income representative:
 - ❖ The board member's gross household income is below 80% of the area median.
 - ❖ The board member is an elected representative of a <u>low-income neighborhood organization</u>. (Refer to page 4 of the CHDO Certification Manual for further guidance).
 - ❖ The board member is a resident of a low-income neighborhood (at least 51% of the residents of the census tract are below 80% area median income).

Using the form provided, please provide the appropriate low-income documentation as **Attachment B.**

CHDO currently admi rvice area of the curre laws?				
the affordable housinear, including units as				ertaken in
ow many units have useholds were assiste			seholds assisted?	How ma
ere HOME funds fron ote: to be eligible, C ase; permanent finan	CHDO set-aside	funds must b		
язе, реппапені шап	ong only is meng	JIDIE)		
e the CHDO's low-ind income community in				ned to invo
aving low-income representings <u>does not satis</u> e-etings <u>does not satis</u> v-income advisory produced dDO to the low-income dDO's bylaws.	<u>sfy</u> the requireme ocess is designe	ents of the low ed to report th	v-income advisory ne outreach efforts	process. made by
what ways was the lo	w-income advis	ory process in	nplemented in the	past year
HDO's what	s bylaws. ways was the lo	s bylaws. ways was the low-income advis	ways was the low-income advisory process in	ways was the low-income advisory process implemented in the

*	been involved with the CHDO to advise on policies and procedures, program design, site location(s), development and management of affordable housing? Please provide specific examples.
*	Are there any unique approaches you have taken to obtain feedback from the low-income such as the formation of neighborhood advisory councils, tenant committees, etc.?
*	Discuss any challenges you have encountered in obtaining feedback from the low-income residents and what measures will be pursued to overcome these obstacles.
	escribe the Fair Housing activities that were undertaken by your organization ring the past 12 months.
	escribe any training or technical assistance that your board or staff members rticipated in that increased your capacity to develop affordable housing.

6.

7.

3.	Please identify any technical assistance or training needs that your organization needs to increase your capacity to develop affordable housing.					

- 9. Provide a narrative of the CHDO's **two-year** strategic business plan.
 - ❖ The business plan must be delineated by year, for the next two years. A new, updated document must be submitted with each recertification.
 - ❖ It must contain specific, measurable goals regarding affordable housing unit production and number of households to be assisted, as well as other long-range organizational and community development goals of the CHDO.
 - It must identify the funding sources anticipated to accomplish the stated goals.

Include the two-year strategic business plan as **Attachment C**.

* "Measurable" goals are ones to which the CHDO can hold itself accountable and easily determine at the end of the year whether or not the goal was accomplished.